

Progress Report on

ELECTRIC FARMING CAMPAIGN

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SUCCESSFUL
ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE

Illinois statewide president Fred W. Harms told a large audience at that organization's recent "Farm Production -- Power Use Conference" in Springfield: "It is our aim to get a full representation of all groups together who are concerned with the rural electrification program so that we may determine how to better mobilize our rural electrification program for the difficult farm production job ahead." Other speakers who stressed the importance of the Electric Farming Campaign were John Stout, assistant state agriculture department director; George Dillon, REA; Prof. E. W. Lehmann, head of agricultural engineering at University of Illinois; and Dawson Womeldorff, agricultural sales manager for the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois.

SUNFLOWER STATE -- The first paragraph in the program for the April 7, 8, and 9 statewide conference in Abilene, Kansas, tells the story succinctly. It read: "An orientation program for advisers, managers and board members dealing with the productive uses of electricity in helping to attain increased production of food and fiber for National Defense and the civilian economy."

SEVENTEEN AT MONTANA -- The Montana State Power Use Conference, in Billings on March 26, 27 and 28, was an unqualified success, with seventeen co-ops represented. Many farmers and ranchers in that area are interested in grain-and hay-drying, which formed the central theme of the conference. Follow-up meetings for 15 co-ops have already been scheduled, as follows: Montana 16, April 21; 17 and 19, April 22; 33 and 34, Apr. 23; 5 and 29, Apr. 24; 28, Apr. 25; 25, Apr. 28; 26 and 27, Apr. 29; 24 and 32, Apr. 30; 15, May 1; 10, May 2. REA representatives will attend each meeting to help present a condensed version of the Electric Farming meetings at St. Louis and Billings. Electric Farming Campaign leaders are encouraging this type of follow-thru meeting heartily, adding that Montana is setting splendid example for other States to follow.

ALABAMA'S LIVELY MEETING -- A dozen managers, more than 50 directors, and other rural electrification leaders attended the Alabama Electric Farming Meeting in Montgomery, April 4. The large attendance was all the more impressive because of the very inclement weather, high winds, heavy rains. The need for the Electric Farming Campaign on all co-ops was discussed. It was felt that Electric Farming is a department of equal importance on every co-op with maintenance, bookkeeping, line construction and any of the other major activities for which a co-op sets aside enough money and manpower "to get the job done." A resolution endorsing Electric Farming was passed. The meeting was told how the campaign can strengthen national defense by increasing production, conserving manpower, conserving food.

ELECTRIC FARMING GETS MORE TO MARKET

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CHANGE IN DATE — The Northeastern Association of Electric Cooperatives has changed the date and place of its meeting. It will meet at the Sheraton Hotel, Pittsfield, Mass., June 11, 12 and 13, and not in Elmira, N. Y., in May. The Association will meet jointly with the municipal electric systems of New York State and New England.

KENTUCKY ENTHUSIASM — Every director of Shelby Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, Shelbyville, joined in the discussion at the April 10 Electric Farming Campaign meeting, asked questions, and helped draft a resolution highlighting the need for increased food and fiber production.

FULL DAY AT MADISON — The Wisconsin Electric Cooperative plans a streamlined program for its one day "Farm Production Conference" at Madison, April 25. The Conference was purposely scheduled to follow the wind-up of the three-day Farm Electrification Conference at the University of Wisconsin (April 22-24) and the WEC Board of Directors meeting, April 24, all in Madison. Some of the features of the Conference were to be: "The Fifth Plate," Walter Katterhenry, PMA; "Training Your Power Use Advisers," Carl Neitzke, University of Wisconsin Extension Specialist; "Farmstead Mechanization," Prof. F. W. Duffee, Chairman, Agricultural Engineering Department of University of Wisconsin; and "A Laymen's View of the Job To Be Done," John TePoorten, Coordinator of Wisconsin Vocational Schools." Administrator Claude R. Wickard emphasized the importance of the conference in a letter to Wisconsin managers and directors, saying, in part "The Nation has need for greater quantities of food this year than at any time in the past, as a result of our military, international and domestic situation. There is particular need for feed grains, a fact which is of special significance to the rural electric cooperatives, since electricity can do so much to conserve feed and make its use more productive . . . "

MISSOURI FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS — The Missouri statewide will sponsor six district meetings throughout the state in May, in the six G&T co-op areas, as follows: May 5, Columbia (Central); May 7, Poplar Bluff (M&A); May 8, Marshfield (Sho-Me); May 9, Springfield (KAMO); May 12, Cameron (N.W.); and May 16, Macon (Northeast). PMA and Extension representatives are cooperating. Meetings start at 10 and are due to close at 3. A. C. Burroughs, assistant manager of statewide, will handle discussion. Program will include: "How Electricity Can Assist The Farmer in Solving His Problems," and "Electric Use in Efficient Farm and Home Management."

GEORGIA COMMITTEE MEETING — The Georgia Statewide Power Use Committee met in Macon April 10, urged all co-ops to hire electrification advisers, use state paper to push the Electric Farming Program, insert ads in local weeklies. A meeting in June for all directors and managers is now being planned.